

# The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, September 24. 1695.

Quest. 1. **W**orthy Gentlemen, please to answer this question? How came the continent of America, and the Islands adjoining to be inhabited before the Discoveries made by Christopher Collumbus, Ann. Christi. 1490. and Americus Vesputius, Ann. Christi. 1497.

For surely, had they been derived from any Nation of the then known World, they could never have lost Knowledge, Learning and Discipline to such a degree as they had done; for 'tis said, they had not the use of Letters nor Hieroglyphicks, whereby to read or write; no, nor understanding or Reason, Edge, Tool, or any thing else, wherewithal to build Ships, or any other Vessels wherewith to Trade, (excepting some small Canoes, by which they maintained a Commerce 'twixt themselves).

Ans. 'Tis very observable, that in our first discoveries of America, they had this tradition, that they all at first came from one Man and one Woman, which is a fair argument that they must proceed from some of Noah's Sons; who were all told so. If you ask how they came into America, since according to our present Geography, 'tis not contiguous to Asia or Europe, or even Africa, and therefore how should they be transplanted thither, to which we may answer, 1. Noah and his Family having been accustomed to the Ark, would doubtless from thence build some sort of Vessels at least for Coasting along shoors, and when they were encreased spread over the Northern parts of Europe; might very probably be transported by contrary Winds or Tempests, from Denmark or Scotland, to the Northern parts of America, it being no great distance; 2. This will still appear more probable, if we consider that Earthquakes, Tempests, &c. Have caused those strange alterations in the face of nature, that many Countreys are now cover'd with water that were formerly land, and many that are now land were cover'd with water, that some are separated by the Sea, as England and France, which formerly lay together, of which we meet with examples enough in consulting the most Antient and Modern Geography, then the question will not any longer be involv'd with that difficulty; as for their Ignorance 'tis no argument for or against their being or not being the Sons of Noah; the greatest part of Africa, and especially Southwards, are altogether as Illiterate as those in America, and generally more savage.

Quest. 2. I desire you to affirm, or confute these words following, which are to be found in Mr. William Norris's 3d Vol. of Practical Discourses. Pag. 95. What we think we see, taste, smell in Bodies, which are without us, is not really in the bodies themselves, but is all transferr'd within our own minds. Pag. 96. I offer nothing but what is strictly and Philosophically true; which I could easily demonstrate upon the best Principles of Science, that ever yet appear'd in the World.

Ans. The position is very true.

Quest. 3. Pray resolve these questions. 1. How does God exist, whether successively, or altogether, that is is he past, present and future at this TO VVV? If he exists TO VVV or altogether, how can it be said that he Coexists with his Creatures which exist Successively?

2. How does the Image in a looking-glass seem to be more or less distant, according to the distance of the object?

3. How comes it to pass that a man never sees his face in its proper posture in a Glass? Because that which is the right side of the real face in the left in the Glass, and vice versa: So that was a painter to pretend to draw a mans face by that which he sees in the Glass; 'twere impossible for him to do it truly, because the right side would be the left, and the left the right?

4. What difficulties does Des Cartes's solution of Gravity Labour under?

Ans. 1. Read his own Character & see, he certainly always is; motion, succession, change, &c. are words that we borrow as adapted to express those Ideas, we have concerning this material world, but they are very improperly us'd in reference to the intellectual world. A just Philosopher never says, that God Almighty Coexists with his Creatures, but that his Creatures exist in him, 'tis in him we live and move and have our being.

Ans. 2. 3. There are several things previous to be known before an answer would be intelligible to you, you must understand Geometry or Algebra, or both, and then read Dioptrics to be resolv'd.

Ans. 4. More than either Descartes, or any body else can tell what to do with.

Quest. 4. A friend of mine is often joking about your writing twice of the Unparallel'd Adventure, as if you had been greas'd in the fist, (he pleases to term it thus) for the same. Nothing that I can say will satisfy him, nor any excuse, (in case you had been desired by the Undertakers or some Adventurers to write what you did) will go down with him. He brings upon the stage what you formerly writ about Lotteries, as unlawful in your mind, and what you have writ since the Million-Adventure; which seems contradictory to him. And because he ventures to make publick jests about it; I think it would be proper to let him read in their Mercury, how far he is in the wrong.

Ans. Indeed Sir, if you dare believe persons as you never saw, we knew nothing of the matter till 'twas publish'd, we suppose the Undertaker made and answer'd his own question; but how it got in you may ask our Printer, perhaps (if he please) he can give you a better account.

Quest. 5. I am a Prentice to a ——— almost out of my time, was educated with the advantage of a good Grammar School, and blessed with a volubility of speech, and having frequently dialogued with my Masters Wife, both in matters of Divinity and History; she hath so endeared me to her, with her pleasing conversation, that I am never easy when I am out of her Company, she seems delighted with my expressions and always looks cheerfully and innocently upon me; I have no inclination to any thing unlawful upon her account, nor has she I really believe any unchast thoughts towards me. However I beg you do resolve me, whether it be prudent to continue this conversation; and if there be no danger that it may improve it self into an unlawful amour, we being both in the vigorous heat of youth, and the frailty of humane nature too too ready to comply with any temptation or opportunity; your speedy answer will very much oblige, and may be very serviceable.

Ans. 'Tis not impossible but your conversations may still be continued with all the innocency of the world, yet if your master is any way a disagreeable or disobliging husband, and your affections wholly free; there may be danger in respect to both of you; the most secure way is to avoid all temptations, and except you are well assured of



of your own power over your selves, 'twill be best for you to talk it together.

Quest. 6. Reading sometime since I observed one instance. I never heard or read before, which is the Occasion of my troubling you at this time. Pray in your next let me have your opinion, viz. that before a publick assembly of the Nobility and others in the Court of a great King, two famous Magicians contend, which of them should have the Precedency for skill; and in the Tryal it was concluded betwixt them, that by turns neither should refuse what the other commanded him to do; to which covenant they had both past their Oaths in the presence of all the Spectators: The first who was to begin, commands the other to put his head out of a Casement, which was no sooner done but instantly there appeared so grow out of his forehead a great pair of horns, of that height and greatness that it was not possible to draw his head in again; and thus he kept him for a good space. But at length being released, and growing angry and impatient at such an injury, and (as it seems) dealing with a greater and more powerful Devil, he brought him of a more deep and dangerous revenge. He draws with a Coal the Picture of a Man upon the Wall, and could the former Magician who had before insulted over him, to enter and hide himself within that Effigies. But he seeing before his eyes the Terror of Imminent death, began to quake and tremble, and beseech him to spare his life; but the other inexorable, enjoined him to enter there as he had commanded; which he with great unwillingness being enforced to do, the wall was seen to open and give way to his entrance, and shut again, but never returned his body back, dead or alive; pray your opinion of the Truth of this matter, and you will oblige your servant, &c.

Ans. No, we believe this relation as much as that honest Bacon was a Conjuror, only because he had a little more Sence and Mathematicks, than the rest of his Neighbours: but these are generally stories only invented to amuse Children and Fools, like a Garagantua or Bevis, &c.

Quest. 7. There is a Lady of our Acquaintance, about Sixteen, whose Mother, out of an ardent desire for an Husband her self, has trepan'd her Daughter into the Marriage of a Fool, about Twelve: For the Case lay thus: If she could not wheedle her daughter to have the Son, the Father would not have her. Moreover, as we are told that he should say, when he met her Daughter and her at Church, that Morning they were married, that he would not marry her, till the young ones was tyed fast, because safe bind was safe find with him always; So rather than she would loose her own fair hopes, she was resolved to ruin her Child; Notwithstanding, she was upwards of forty; now I desire to know your opinion as to the match, and further, whether it may not be lawful for the young Lady to be divorced or not, for they never bedded together above two hours; and yet further, because her mother really did it to satisfy her own inclinations, more than for any advantage, she could propose to her Daughter in it. If you find it lawful for the Lady to be divorced let us have a speedy answer, and put us in a method how to go about so Charitable a piece of work as this to free her from misery in this life; because we are altogether unskilful in these matters. You may be apt to think it strange, that the Ladies relations does not stir in this matter, but they know better, because if this fool has no children they will get above 500*l.* per Annum by it, and for that reason they hold their tongues; though I say the Lady is sixteen, yet when she was married she was but fourteen, and the Lad ten.

Ans. It's very probable that the young Lady, except she's very prudent, may suffer all her Life, for this Indiscreet and unjust Act of her Mother; yet since it's wholly past and irrecoverably confirmed, both by Wedding and Bedding; her Happiness and Duty requires her to be satisfied, and

those are only her Friends who endeavour to render her easy and contented with it.

## Advertisements.

### There is Newly Published,

The Letter written by Sir DUNCOMB COLCHESTER, a little before his Death; containing his REMARKABLE PENITENCE (which Letter was read publickly by his order, in the Parish Churches of Michael-Dean and Westbury) is now published, with other late Instances of that Nature. All which are annex to Mr. TURNER's Essay upon the Works of Creation and Providence, lately published. To which ESSAY is added a SCHEME of the History of Remarkable Providences, (now preparing for the Press.) As also a large Specimen of that Work. Price bound 2*s.*—

There is lately published a very particular account of the LIFE of the QUEEN, during her Residence in Holland, being—A COLLECTION of FUNERAL ORATIONS pronounced by publick Authority upon her Majesty's Death, by Dr. James Leighton, Professor of Eloquence, History and the Greek Tongue, in Leyden, Dr. George Grevius, Professor of Theology in Utrecht, and several other Learned men.—In this COLLECTION is inserted—That Excellent METHOD her Majesty observed in Reading the Holy Scriptures—The manner how she spent EVERY DAY in the week—Some extraordinary Instances of her conjugal fidelity.—Her Conference with the English Ambassadors at the Hague.—Many divine, moral and political expressions, as at several times, and on several occasions they were delivered by her.—With other Remarkable Passages in her LIFE and DEATH not hitherto made publick.—The whole attested by those Reverend and Honourable persons that attended upon her: Price 2*s.* 6*d.*—There is already published a FUNERAL ORATION upon the Queens Death, pronounced by publick Authority in the Hall of the most Illustrious States, upon the day of the Royal Obsequies; March 5. 1695. by the Learned SPANHELMIUS, (who had frequent access to her Majesty whilst she lived in Holland.) This is Printed in 4*to*, to bind up with the forementioned COLLECTION.

Both Printed for John Dunton in Jewen-street, and may also be had of Edm. Richardson near the Poultry-Church.

If any Minister's Widow, or other persons have any Library, or parcel of books to dispose of, if they will send a Catalogue of them, or notice where they are, to John Dunton, at the Raven in Jewen-street, they shall have ready money for them, to the full of what they are worth.

Walter Lloyd at the Ancient Fowler in Tower-street, London, Sells the Finest, strongest Glaz'd, or not Glaz'd Gun-Powder, which by the Experience of several Persons of quality and others hath considerably out-done any Gun-powder yet made; the said strong Gun-powder, and all other sorts of Gun-powder is Sold by him at very reasonable Rates.

Thomas Fabian Bookseller, that Lived at the Sign of the Bible in St. Pauls Church-Yard, a Corner Shop next Cheap-side, afterwards over against Woodstreet, is now removed to Mercers-Chappel.